

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR A)	ORDER
SURVEY ON UTILITIES' YEAR 2000)	
READINESS)	MS98-001

At its August 18, 1998, regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the status of South Dakota utilities' efforts towards mitigating the potential problems posed by the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. The Commission ordered Commission Staff to develop a Y2K readiness survey to be sent to all utility companies and other interested persons and entities. The survey was developed by Commission Staff and sent to the above referenced entities on August 28, 1998. It was ordered that the survey be returned to the Commission Staff no later than October 1, 1998. The results of the survey were used to determine the utilities' readiness regarding the potential problems posed by the Y2K computer problem.

On October 15, 1998, at its regularly scheduled meeting, Commission Staff presented its findings, based upon the responses of the utilities that returned the survey, to the Commission. Commission Staff recommended the following:

1. That Commission Staff follow up on responses not yet received from the local cooperatives, independents, municipals and competitive local exchange companies. The outstanding responses must be returned by November 1, 1998.
2. In March 1999, a follow-up survey be administered to examine the current stage of the process each utility is then in. Commission Staff expects that all remediation efforts should be complete.
3. In July 1999, utilities will be required to report their current process stage once again. Commission Staff expects that testing of all remediated parts will be complete by July 1999. Contingency plans will also be in place by July 1999.
4. As problems relating to the Y2K bug are expected to appear as early as the 99th day of the 99th year which will occur on April 9, 1999, and also on September 9, 1999 (09-09-99), Commission Staff recommends that utilities should be Y2K compliant before the September 9 date.
5. Commission Staff further recommends that all the utilities inform their customers of Y2K issues and the utilities' contingency plan should problems arise on January 1, 2000.
6. All utilities document all test results and remediation efforts

throughout the preparation process.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, and 49-34A-26. Having heard the recommendations of Commission Staff and the Bureau of Information, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the recommendations of Commission Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED that

1. Commission Staff follow up on responses not yet received from the local cooperatives, independents, municipals and competitive local exchange companies. The outstanding responses must be returned by November 1, 1998.
2. In March 1999, a follow-up survey be administered to examine the current stage of the process each utility is then in. All remediation efforts should be complete.
3. In July 1999, utilities will be required to report what stage of the process the utility is at. All remediated parts will be complete by July 1999. Contingency plans will also be in place by July 1999.
4. All the utilities shall inform their customers of Y2K issues and the utilities' contingency plan should problems arise on January 1, 2000.
5. All utilities shall document all test results and remediation efforts throughout the preparation process.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of October, 1998.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner